

MEDIA UPDATE: June 22

—HEADLINES— *Scroll down for full stories and links.*

Coverage update on AKNG airlifts “Into the Wild” bus from Stampede Trail

Facebook video views: 534,900+

Facebook post views: 56,700+

Facebook post engagement: 16,800+

News articles: 500+

In addition to the local, national, international and media sources reported in the June 19 Media Update, the story was picked up by:

Local Media: KTVA, KTUU, ADN

Major Military Media: Navy Times

| Alaska National Guard News |

1. As Alaska cases of COVID-19 go up, so does demand for contact tracing
2. Video: “Into the Wild” Bus Removed By Alaska Guard

| Alaska News of Interest |

3. Alaska’s second wave of coronavirus infections continues
4. Anchorage Residents Seek Statue Removal of European Explorer

| Nation/National Guard News of Interest |

5. National Guard COVID-19 Response
6. WHO reports largest single-day increase in coronavirus cases

—ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD NEWS—

1. As Alaska cases of COVID-19 go up, so does demand for contact tracing

ADN by Morgan Krakow/June 21

AKNG Excerpt:

In Anchorage, the health department incorporated school nurses as contact tracers, and the state is also onboarding a group of school nurses from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, O’Connor said. Recently, the state began enlisting help from members of the Alaska National Guard, she said.

Link: <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/2020/06/21/as-alaska-cases-of-covid-19-go-up-so-does-demand-for-contact-tracing/>

2. Video: “Into the Wild” Bus Removed by Alaska Guard

Navy Times/June 19

A helicopter from the Alaska Army National Guard removed an old bus from a remote part of the wilderness because too many tourists and adventurers were getting lost or injured trying to reach it. The bus became famous after a book and movie about a young man who died there of starvation in 1992.g

Video: <https://www.navytimes.com/video/2020/06/19/into-the-wild-bus-removed-by-alaska-guard/>

Also at: <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/2020/06/18/state-removes-infamous-into-the-wild-bus-after-years-of-hiker-rescues-and-deaths/>

<https://www.ktva.com/clip/15086825/infamous-into-the-wild-bus-removed-via-helicopter>

<https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Into-the-Wild-bus-removed-from-Stampede-Trail-by-State-of-Alaska-571357901.html>

—ALASKA NEWS OF INTEREST—

3. Alaska's second wave of coronavirus infections continues

ADN by Morgan Krakow/June 22

The number of active COVID-19 cases reported Saturday among Alaskans reached the highest level yet as the state contends with its second wave of rising coronavirus cases since the pandemic began.

State health department data released Saturday showed 267 active resident cases. That number, which peaked at 188 during Alaska's first wave of active infections, has been growing steadily this month after the state in May lifted most pandemic restrictions on businesses and social gatherings. The loosening of restrictions came after weeks of low daily case counts and efforts to expand the state's health care capacity.

Testing confirmed 21 new virus cases among Alaska residents and two cases among nonresidents, Saturday's state data showed. The new cases involve seven Anchorage residents, four people from Fairbanks, three from North Pole, two from Sitka and one case each among residents of Homer, the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, Big Lake and one person from a smaller community in the southern Kenai Peninsula.

Among nonresidents, a mining worker in the Fairbanks North Star Borough and a seafood industry worker in the Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area newly tested positive.

Another person from out of state tested positive for COVID-19 on Thursday and was also added to state data on Saturday.

A total of 104 people from Outside have tested positive for the virus in Alaska, according to the state, along with 743 total cases among residents since the pandemic began.

There was also one new hospitalization involving someone confirmed to have the virus, according to state data.

On Friday, the Municipality of Anchorage announced that five cases of the illness were tied to an early June gathering in Girdwood, while other attendees were showing symptoms but had declined testing. Another 42 people were being monitored in association with gatherings in Girdwood.

Additionally, three health care workers in Fairbanks had tested positive for COVID-19 by Friday. Health officials recommended that 14 patients who had contact with an employee at the Tanana Valley Clinic quarantine for two weeks, though they're considered "low risk."

Link: <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/2020/06/20/alaskas-second-wave-of-virus-cases-continues-with-21-more-residents-testing-positive/>

4. Anchorage Residents Seek Statue Removal of European Explorer

US News by Associated Press/June 20

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA (AP) — Some Alaska residents have questioned whether a statue of a British explorer in downtown Anchorage should be removed as monuments to historical figures are being dismantled across the country.

The statue is of Captain James Cook, who came to Alaska in 1778 in what is now known as Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet while searching for the Northwest Passage as an explorer for the British government, the Anchorage Daily News reported.

Cook and his crew were the first Europeans to set foot in the region and were credited with discovering land that was already inhabited by Indigenous people.

The statue located at downtown's Resolution Park was a gift from oil company British Petroleum to the city as part of the American Bicentennial Celebration in 1976 and is a replica of one in Anchorage's sister city of Whitby, England.

Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz said Wednesday that he would like to modify the monument, agreeing with the Anchorage Sister Cities Commission, which suggested engaging with the community to decide how to modify the monument to also reflect the history of Alaska Natives.

"The Commission recognizes that the statue alone excludes the history of the indigenous people in what is now Anchorage," the commission said in a letter Monday. "Rather than remove the statue, the Commission feels this situation can be instrumental as an opportunity to support a positive dialogue between us and our Sister City Whitby, as well as continued conversation and education among Anchorage's diverse population."

Some residents have continued to call for the statue's removal, saying it may not be securely attached to its base. Others have asked Berkowitz and Police Chief Justin Doll to guard the statue to protect it from being demolished.

"To me, taking down the statue is a missed opportunity. In an ideal world, the statue would have never gone up," said Aaron Leggett, Native Village of Eklutna president, Anchorage Museum curator and commission member. "We want to see more information there, we want to be acknowledged there, but we don't necessarily want to see the statue taken down."

He added: "Taking down the statue won't change the name of the hotel across the street, or the Cook Inlet."

Link: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/alaska/articles/2020-06-20/anchorage-residents-see-statue-removal-of-european-explorer>

—NATION/NATIONAL GUARD NEWS OF INTEREST—

5. National Guard COVID-19 Response

Multiple services come together under dual-status command; West Virginia Guard completes 100 days of COVID-19 response; Guard member helps family friend, pregnant COVID-19 patient

Latest news articles: <https://www.nationalguard.mil/coronavirus/>

6. WHO reports largest single-day increase in coronavirus cases

NBC News by Associated Press/June 21

GENEVA — The World Health Organization on Sunday reported the largest single-day increase in coronavirus cases by its count, at more than 183,000 new cases in the latest 24 hours.

The UN health agency said Brazil led the way with 54,771 cases tallied and the U.S. next at 36,617. Over 15,400 came in in India.

Experts said rising case counts can reflect multiple factors including more widespread testing as well as broader infection.

Overall in the pandemic, WHO reported 8,708,008 cases — 183,020 in the last 24 hours — with 461,715 deaths worldwide, with a daily increase of 4,743.

More than two-thirds of those new deaths were reported in the Americas.

In Spain, officials ended a national state of emergency after three months of lockdown, allowing its 47 million residents to freely travel around the country for the first time since March 14. The country also dropped a 14-day quarantine for visitors from Britain and the 26 European countries that allow visa-free travel.

But there was only a trickle of travelers at Madrid-Barajas Airport, which on a normal June day would be bustling.

“This freedom that we now have, not having to justify our journey to see our family and friends, this was something that we were really looking forward to,” Pedro Delgado, 23, said after arriving from Spain’s Canary Islands.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez urged people to take maximum precautions: “The virus can return and it can hit us again in a second wave, and we have to do whatever we can to avoid that at all cost.”

At a campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Trump said Saturday the U.S. has tested 25 million people, but the “bad part” is that it found more cases.

“When you do testing to that extent, you’re going to find more people, you’re going to find more cases,” Trump said. “So I said to my people, ‘Slow the testing down, please.’”

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro said on CNN that Trump was being “tongue-in-cheek” and made the comment in a “light mood.”

Democratic rival Joe Biden's campaign accused Trump of "putting politics ahead of the safety and economic well-being of the American people."

The U.S. has the world's highest number of reported infections, over 2.2 million, and the highest death toll, at about 120,000, according to Johns Hopkins. Health officials say robust testing is vital for tracking outbreaks and keeping the virus in check.

In England, lockdown restrictions prevented druids, pagans and party-goers on Sunday from watching the sun rise at the ancient circle of Stonehenge to mark the summer solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. English Heritage, which runs the site, livestreamed it instead. A few people gathered outside the fence.

"You can't cancel the sunrise," druid Arthur Pendragon told the BBC.

The number of confirmed virus cases is still growing rapidly not only in the U.S. but in Brazil, South Africa and other countries, especially in Latin America.

Brazil's Health Ministry said the total number of cases had risen by more than 50,000 in a day. President Jair Bolsonaro has been downplaying the risks even as his country has seen nearly 50,000 fatalities, the second-highest death toll in the world.

South Africa reported a one-day high of almost 5,000 new cases on Saturday and 46 deaths. Despite the increase, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a further loosening of one of the world's strictest lockdowns. Casinos, beauty salons and sit-down restaurant service will reopen.

In the United States, the virus appears to be spreading across the West and South. Arizona reported over 3,100 new infections, just short of Friday's record, and 26 deaths. Nevada also reported a new high of 445 cases.

In Europe, a single meatpacking plant in Germany has had over 1,000 cases, so the regional government issued a quarantine for all 6,500 workers, managers and family members.

In Asia, China and South Korea reported new coronavirus cases Sunday in outbreaks that threatened to set back their recoveries.

Chinese authorities recorded 25 new confirmed cases — 22 in Beijing. In the past week, Beijing tightened travel controls by requiring anyone who wants to leave the Chinese capital, a city of 20 million people, to show proof they tested negative for the virus.

In South Korea, nearly 200 infections have been traced to employees at a door-to-door sales company in Seoul, and at least 70 other infections are tied to a table tennis club there. But South Korean officials are reluctant to enforce stronger social distancing to avoid hurting the economy.

Link: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/who-reports-largest-single-day-increase-coronavirus-cases-n1231681>

**This is a product for internal use. It is a snap shot of media coverage (favorable, unfavorable, true, false) and not a validation by the PA office.*

